

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 07849 041148Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----116905 041151Z /15
O 041143Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8155

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 07849

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: PDIP, ASEC, VM, US
SUBJECT: HUMPHREY-HUNG ESPIONAGE CASE

REFERENCES: A) PARIS 07369, B) STATE U52875

1. VIETNAMESE LIAISON OFFICER DO THANH CAME TO THE EMBASSY AT 1030 MARCH 4. HE SAID THAT, ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM AMBASSADOR VO VAN SUNG, HE WAS RETURNING THE LETTER FROM WARREN L. MILLER ADDRESSED TO AMBASSADOR DINH BA THI (REF A) AND WAS CONVEYING THE FOLLOWING TWO POINT MESSAGE FROM SUNG: "THE FEBRUARY 4, 1978 STATEMENT OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM, THE MESSAGE FROM VICE MINISTER PHAN HIEN TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE, AND DINH BA THI HIMSELF HAVE COMPLETELY REFUTED THE SLANDER OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT CONCERNING THE MEMBERS OF THE STAFF OF THE PERMANENT MISSION AT THE UN. AMBASSADOR DINH BA THI HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE SO-CALLED ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES THAT THE AMERICAN JUDICIAL ORGANIZATIONS HAVE RAISED OR WITH ANY SIMILAR ACTIVITY. THIS IS WHY WE DO NOT ACCEPT THE TRANSMISSION OF THIS LETTER OR ANY KIND OF REQUEST WHICH CONCERNS THIS AFFAIR. SECOND POINT: "WE HOPE THAT THE AMERICAN PARTY WILL NOT ACQUIESCE
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IN TRANSMITTING SUCH REQUESTS BECAUSE THIS IS NOT USEFUL IN AMELIORATING THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES."

2. DO THANH SAID THAT THE ABOVE MESSAGE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED TO BE COMING FROM AMBASSADOR VO VAN SUNG; WE SHOULD NOT ATTEMPT TO LOOK BEHIND IT TO DETERMINE

WHETHER IT WAS OR WAS NOT BASED ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM
HANOI.

3. IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS IN REF B, EMBOFF
THEN RAISED THE QUESTION OF WHAT THE SRV GOVERNMENT
MIGHT CONSIDER AN ACCEPTABLE CHANNEL FOR THE
TRANSMISSION OF A MESSAGE FROM THE DEFENSE COUNSEL TO
AMBASSADOR THI. DO THANH NOTED CAREFULLY THE TEXT
OF THE PENULTIMATE SENTENCE OF REF. B. AND SAID THAT
HE WOULD CHECK WITH AMBASSADOR SUNG, WHO MAY WISH TO
REFER THE QUESTION TO HANOI.

4. DO THARH SAID THAT HE HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS ON THE
MATTER FROM HANOI OR AMBASSADOR SUNG, BUT IT WAS HIS
PERSONAL VIEW THAT THE LAWYER COULD WRITE DIRECTLY
TO AMBASSADOR THI IN HANOI. THIS WOULD THEN BE A
PERSON TO PERSON MATTER, AND HE THOUGHT THAT
THI WOULD PROBABLY REPLY TO A LETTER WHICH HE RECEIVED
PERSONALLY. AMBASSADOR SUNG'S REFUSAL TO ACCEPT THE
LETTER FOR TRANSMITTAL DID NOT MEAN THAT AMBASSADOR
THI WOULD REFUSE A LETTER, IT MERELY MEANT THAT
SUNG CONSIDERED THAT THE LIAISON BETWEEN OUR TWO
EMBASSIES IN PARIS WAS NOT AN APPROPRIATE CHANNEL.

5. MILLER'S LETTER WAS RETURNED OPENED,
BUT DO THANH MADE NO REMARK ABOUT THE CONTENTS.
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6. WE WOULD APPRECIATE INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE
DEPARTMENT AS TO WHETHER WE SHOULD RETURN THE LETTER
TO THE DEPARTMENT BY THE EARLIEST POUCH OR WHETHER
WE SHOULD PUT THE LETTER INTO THE INTERNATIONAL MAIL
FOR HANOI HERE ON BEHALF OF MR. MILLER.
HARTMAN

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 04 mar 1978
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From: PARIS
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Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197803106/aaaadmeh.tel
Line Count: 101
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2e4c7bb8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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